

San Miguel County Open Space Commission
Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 22nd, 2024, 4:00 PM

Attendance:

OSC Members Present: Sefra Maples, Yvette Henson, Susie St. Onge, Jason Merritt,

OSC Members Absent: Joanna Kanow, Roger Wickham, Angela Dye, Laura Kudo

SMC Staff Liaisons Present: Janet Kask, Greg Pollio

Guests: Dylan Brooks

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Susie St. Onge

Approval of 5/20/24 Meeting Minutes: Not Approved, No Quorum

Mining Land Use Code Update (Susie St. Onge)

- Starr Jamison and Kaye Simonson have reminded us that there are many state and federal regulations that preempt the county's input
 - Federal Land Policy Management Act & Colorado Mine Land Reclamation Act
 - The county isn't powerless though, that we can add local regulations
- Kaye Simonson has stated that after the update of the Solar Land Use Code Update, they will be updating LUC's for oil and gas, mining, logging and adding geothermal energy
- Susie stated that she would like to edit the Open Space Commissions letter to be more concise and add in language that we are aware of the state and federal regulations, but we would like to have a voice in our county
- Starr Jamison offered to come to a meeting and speak on the subject and Kaye Simonson offered to present on land use practices
- The intention of the OSC letter is to state our goal is to have the best health and wellness for the county and echo Ann Brown's concerns on the frequency we are seeing these applications

Mill Levy Update (Janet Kask)

- There are some trade offs with the Mill Levy Ballot measure
 - Facility Maintenance has been taken on by the Parks & Open Space Department recently
 - This takes a major percentage of POS bandwidth and was not traditionally managed by POS
 - There was a discussion of maintenance being relocated under a different department which the funding would be absorbed by them too

- This would help reallocate some of the funding and would dampen the effects of the Mill Levy budget cut to POS
- This reallocation would help fund affordable housing for the county
- Looking into future budgets the POS department will be adding multiple new trails and parks, and this needs to be budgeted for

Commissioning Mural for the bike path underpass (Dylann Brooks)

- Since the construction of the bike path some felt that the Lawson Hill side of the underpass could use some beautification
- The artist that Dylann Brooks is suggesting to paint the mural is Jules Muck
- The first steps were to involve the open space commission to gauge interest
 - It needs to be investigated if the BOCC needs to be involved
- The subject matter still needs to be discussed, but they are pursuing something consistent with the Valley Floor. Ex. Elk herd or Prairie Dogs
- The only other time something like this was discussed was years ago under Art Goodtimes
- Cost and Time of this mural have not been decided
 - Since it's out of the Counties budget cycle, grants and community support funding need to be pursued
- The county is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the underpass and east and west walls

Native Plant Class Report (Yvette Henson)

- Recent class was held at Bridal Veil Falls with a second class August 1st
- The class covers Plant Family and keying, the impact of invasive species, and human and ecological uses
- Difficulties around parking and the time it takes to hike were discussed

Parks & Open Space Project Updates

- Bridal Veil steps are on schedule
 - Development and Wetlands permits have been approved
 - R&B Oilfield Services was the selected bidder

- They have begun the fabrication of the stairs
- Construction will begin in about 3 weeks
- Mill Creek Park
 - RFP was awarded to Dig It Excavation
 - Work will start next week to backfill the exposed foundations and level half of the site
 - A revegetation plan will also be followed to add pollinators
 - The full construction plans of the park cannot be pursued until the BOCC gives us approval
- Trout Lake Water Tank and culvert
 - An RFP is out now for the replacement of the water tower roofing with a historically accurate replacement
 - The culvert has been compromised and Road & Bridge is working on the replacement now
 - The road is closed passed Hope Lake
- Beautification Committee
 - Janet is entertaining the idea of creating a committee responsible for maintaining the aesthetics of county properties
 - Adopting roadways or gardens for beautification. They would be responsible for upkeep of these areas
- Down Valley Connector Trail
 - In the process of pursuing grant funding
 - A GOCO grant is currently being discussed
- Telluride Mountain Club Trails
 - 8-9 trails in the package for USFS review
 - Currently in the NEPA process
 - 3 of the trails are being underwritten for expense by the county

Next OSC meeting is Monday Aug 26th at 4pm

Meeting adjourned: 5:33 PM